

Ministerial Determination in relation to EIS requirements for an application for an Aquaculture Licence for the cultivation of shellfish by Rodeen Fish Farm Ltd in Mill Cove, Castletownbere, Bantry Bay, Co. Cork (Site Ref: T05/464)

I, Simon Coveney, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in accordance with the requirement of Regulation 5(2) of the Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998 have considered whether this Aquaculture Licence application to culture shellfish is likely to have a significant effect on the environment and would require the submission of an Environmental Impact Statement.

I have considered the proposed aquaculture activity, and determined that it is not likely to have significant effects on the environment and that an EIS is not required in relation to this application for the reasons outlined below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

I had regard to the provisions of:

- i. Regulation 5 of the Aquaculture (Licence Application) Regulations, 1998;
- ii. EIA Directives (codified by Council Directive 2011/92/EU);
- iii. The criteria specified in Annex III of Directive 2011/92/EU
- iv. The guidance contained in the European Commission document entitled “Guidance on EIA, Screening” June 2001

and also to the report and recommendations of the Department’s Screening Group with particular reference to:

- a) the nature and scale of the proposed aquaculture activity;
- b) the limited magnitude and extent of the direct impacts arising from the proposed aquaculture activity;
- c) the absence of any protected structures or recorded monuments in the area of the proposed aquaculture activity;
- d) the impact on tourism and marine leisure will not be significant;
- e) public access for recreation or other purposes can be accommodated;
- f) the non-use of toxic or hazardous substances as part of the proposed aquaculture activity;
- g) the minor risk of accidents occurring as result of the proposed aquaculture activity;
- h) any potential impact on wild fisheries will be considered further a Licensing stage;
- i) the visual impact of the activity will be reduced by the appropriate deployment of structures within the site.

23rd March 2016